

**MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, NY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 3:00 PM (EST)
BY TELECONFERENCE**

MINUTES

Present: Paul Beresford-Hill, Chairman; Christopher Broadwell, Secretary & Executive Director.

By Phone: Laura J. Phelps, Vice Chair; E. Quinn Peeper, President; Hollister Sturges, Treasurer; Susan D. Sinclair, Region II Chair; Karen Blair-Brand, Region III Chair; Julia Van de Water, Region IV Chair; Mary Alice Phelan, Region V Chair; Jeffrey L. Schnabel, Region VI Chair; James W. Kerr, Jr., Region VII Chair; William B. Maschmeier, Region VIII Chair; Donald A. Best; Jacques Brunswick; Loveday Conquest; Peter Frey; Darrell W. Hill; Christopher Hodgkins; Duncan Karcher; Christopher Medalis; Bettie Miller; Donna M. Miller; Charles D. Reaves.

Excused: Cheryl Albuquerque; Christine Carty; Polly Cox; Julia Hansen; Roger Stacey.

Observing (ESU Staff): Carol Losos, Director of Education; Grant Hamel, Operations Manager; Joshua Keppel-González, Assistant to the Executive Director/Recording Secretary.

Presiding: Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, Chairman

Dr. Beresford-Hill called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM (EST).

Welcome – Dr. Beresford-Hill welcomed members of the Board of Directors to the board meeting. Christopher Broadwell, Secretary of the Corporation, called the roll and announced a quorum. The Chairman called for the approval of the draft minutes of the fall semi-annual meeting of the National Board held on October 14, 2016. A motion to approve was made, seconded and the motion was approved.

Comments from the Chairman – Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill

Dr. Beresford-Hill commented on the recent passing of Andrew Romay and the uplifting memorial which Board members and staff attended. He restated the English-Speaking Union's commitment to Andrew's legacy, the Andrew Romany New Immigrant Center, and thanked Peter Frey for including the ESU in the ceremony. Dr. Beresford-Hill then welcomed the five new members of the board to their first meeting. He then reviewed the agenda which included the selection of the Committees of the Board, next steps for program implementation of the strategic plan, and the discussion of the progress on the renovation of the National Headquarters.

17 February 2017
National Board Meeting Minutes

The Committees of the Board were then presented and reviewed without discussion. A motion to approve the committee list was approved unanimously.

Dr. Beresford-Hill then called upon Christopher Broadwell to report on the next steps for program implementation of the strategic plan.

Report on Strategic Plan Program Implementation – *Christopher Broadwell, Carol Losos*

Mr. Broadwell shared the Memorandum of Understanding with Claremont McKenna College that would move the ownership of the Middle School Debate entirely to the ESU. While the document itself did not need to be approved by the Board, Mr. Broadwell engaged the Board in discussion as to whether they thought the Middle School Debate program should be moved to ESU ownership. Last year the competition served seventeen-hundred students with over fifteen-hundred debates in twenty-five leagues; ownership of this program would quintuple the amount of leagues which would increase both impact and the outreach of the ESU. Ownership would also require an expansion of the staff with one or two new centralized staff members to coordinate the roll out of the program to additional states in partnership with the Branches. Costs would be defrayed as schools pay fees to participate which would cover supply costs, but staffing costs would not be entirely covered by these fees. Grants would need to be pursued for the program. Branch members could involve themselves in the program by training to judge the debates. Ms. Losos and Mr. Broadwell will continue to negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding with Claremont McKenna given the consensus support of the Board for the program.

For the Teachers Learning Abroad (TLab) program, a short-term marketing consultant has been engaged in order to market the new short courses both to Members of the ESU and teachers. The scholarship three-week programs are performing consistently, but the one-week programs still need promotion and registrants, as twenty-five spots in various programs remained. Chris Broadwell implored the Board to sign-up and promote the program to ensure that the inaugural year of the program would be a success.

Renovation of the National Headquarters – *Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill*

The cost of the renovation of National Headquarters is estimated to cost approximately one million dollars. The Board discussed using the endowment, starting a capital campaign, approaching potential donors for naming rights on the building, or taking out a loan in order to fund the critical work of restoring the house. Selling the Headquarters and renting an alternate space was also posited as a potential strategy. A motion was made to approve commencement of the restoration work on the headquarters, with the House and Finance Committees to be

17 February 2017
National Board Meeting Minutes

empowered to determine the optimum funding strategy for paying for the renovation, and the motion passed with one board member opposed.

Other Business

The Seattle Branch Board conveyed a message through Loveday Conquest and William Maschmeier to the National Board complaining about cutbacks to the National Shakespeare Competition, including the change of the first prize from RADA in London to the American Shakespeare Center and a cap on Branch travel expense reimbursement. Chris Broadwell agreed to review the message, but stated that Board approved budget had necessitated the changes and that a memo to Branch officers included those cuts.

Quinn Peeper questioned the omission of the Development Committee on the approved Committees of the Board list. Chris Broadwell explained that the committees listed are only the “Committees of the Board” cited in the bylaws as being elected by the board and comprising only Board members. Other “Committees of the Corporation” can be formed on an *ad hoc* basis.

Future Dates:

Region V Meeting (Teleconference) – March 1, 2017

Region IV Meeting (Raleigh, NC) – March 24-26, 2017

ESU National Shakespeare Competition – May 1, 2017

Region III Meeting (Philadelphia, PA) – May 19, 2017

Region VIII Meeting (Los Angeles, CA) – May 19-21, 2017

ARNIC Graduation and Honors Dinner – June 1, 2017

Board Meeting – June 2, 2017

International Council Meeting (Lisbon, Portugal) – September 27 - 30, 2017

Annual General Meeting (Louisville, KY) – October 28-30, 2017

Board Retreat - TBD

Adjournment - The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm (EST).